

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9931

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3075

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS EC

SUBJ: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON MAAGS AND
SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 097277

1. NO MAAG OR MILGRP EXISTS IN ECUADOR NOR DO THE GOE OR
THIS MISSION WANT ONE. THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH
THE ADMINISTRATION OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE IS THE US
MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE (MLO). THE MLO WAS ESTABLISHED
IN JULY, 1974, OPERATES AS A SECTION OF THE US EMBASSY
AND IS LOCATED IN THE CHANCERY. OFFICER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN
ACCREDITED BY THIS MISSION BY THE GOE AS ATTACHES FOR LIAISON.
THIS ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENT ENABLES A MINIMUM NUMBER OF PERSONNEL
TO PROPERLY ADMINISTER SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE PRESENT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS OUTLINED BY THE
MILITARY SECURITY ASSISTANCE MANUAL AND OTHER DOD
DIRECTIVES.

2. THE SECTION'S PRESENT STAFFING IS SEVEN MILITARY
PERSONNEL (FIVE OFFICERS AND TWO ENLISTED), BUT IT
DID NOT REACH THIS STRENGTH UNTIL MARCH, 1976. THE
CHIEF OF THE SECTION, AN ARMY COLONEL, HEADS THE MILITARY
LIAISON OFFICE, WITH THREE SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES
(USN, USAF, USA) REPORTING TO HIM AND CONDUCTING DAY-TO-DAY
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LIAISON WITH HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPARTS ON TRAINING (IMET)

AND FMS (EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING) MATTERS. NO SERVICE SECTIONS EXIST. AN OFFICER SERVES AS LOGISTIC OFFICER FOR ALL THREE SERVICES. ONE ENLISTED MAN SERVES AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE NCO AND THE OTHER ENLISTED MAN ACTS AS AN ASSISTANT FOR TRAINING. MAP MATERIEL IS NOT PROVIDED TO ECUADOR SO ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS ARE THEREBY REDUCED IN COMPARISON TO THOSE COUNTRIES RECEIVING MAP MATERIEL.

3. IN ORDER TO FURTHER REDUCE MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE EMBASSY TO A MAXIMUM OF THREE (AS PROVIDED BY FY 76 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION NOT YET PASSED BY CONGRESS), THE ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED UPON THE US MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE BY HIGHER AUTHORITY (DOD SERVICES UNIFIED COMMANDS, ETC.) WOULD HAVE TO BE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED, OR BE ASSUMED BY OTHER ENTITIES. THESE INCLUDE SUCH REQUIREMENTS AS MSAP AND JSOP PLANNING, APO AND MILITARY AIRLIFT MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, AND SOUTHCOM ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS, ETC.

4. THE POLITICAL ADVANTAGES OF THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THIS MISSION'S MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE WOULD BE GREATLY DIMINISHED UNDER THE THREE-MAN STRUCTURE, SINCE IT WOULD CONSIDERABLY REDUCE OUR INTERFACE AND INFLUENCE WITH HIGH LEVELS OF THE ECUADOREAN MILITARY. SUCH A REDUCTION IN THE MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE WOULD BE REGARDED NEGATIVELY BY THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND BE CONSIDERED A DIMINUTION IN THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS. AS THIS EMBASSY HAS STATED REPEATEDLY, THE GOOD RELATIONS WE NOW ENJOY WITH THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT REST LARGELY UPON OUR MILITARY-TO-MILITARY PROGRAMS AND THE INFLUENCE DERIVED THEREFROM.

5. THIS EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HAS THE IDEAL MILITARY ORGANIZATION FOR MEETING OUR NEEDS IN ADMINISTERING CURRENT MILITARY PROGRAMS AND IN MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT. COMMENTS MADE BY LGEN MCAULIFFE, USCINCSO, TO JCS SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RECENT VISIT TO ECUADOR REITERATE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USMLO IN ADVANCING OUR INTERESTS IN

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ECUADOR AND POINT OUT THAT IT IS THE SMALLEST OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE GROUPS IN SOUTH AMERICA. THIS MISSION WAS THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON DOD EFFORTS THROUGH CINCSO TO REDUCE THE NUMBERS OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL IN LATIN AMERICA, AND THE AMBASSADOR CONCURRED IN CINCSO'S APPROACH TO THIS PROBLEM OF REDUCTION BY TAILORING THE OTHER MAAGS TO RESEMBLE THE USMLO CONCEPT AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODEL. WE STRONGLY URGE THAT NOTHING

BE DONE AT THIS TIME TO ALTER THE CURRENT FORM AND
FUNCTIONS OF OUR MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE.
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